Australia Book Report Recommendation

By: Matthew Lerch

*That eye, the sky* is a weird and very different book than I would normally read. It’s about a seventh grade boy named Morton Flack and his family. They live right next to a forest on the outskirts of the city. Ort (short for Morton) has a sister named Tegwyn, his dad’s name is Sam and his mom’s name is Alice. Tegwyn is very snotty to her brother and parents and is almost always in her room or playing piano. His dad got in a really bad car accident while going into town for work. One day this random stranger named Henry Warburton comes to the door and is willing to help them with anything possible. Ort sees a guy under a bridge and thinks it’s Henry so he is very suspicious throughout the book. One night Ort sees this light in the sky but no one else does and that I think that is how the book gets its title. Tim Winton used a lot of different styles in this book like capturing the reader’s attention then filling in on who people are and what grades they’re in. The author used some repetition by having the grandma say “Is that you, Lil Pickering?” and who ever she said it to they would say “No, jus’ me, Grammar.” This went on randomly throughout the book.

I thought the book was okay, it would have been better if it wasn’t so creepy. There was a little swearing but nothing really major. I liked the way they talked but not the way they acted. It seemed like they were so competitive that they would do anything to be not guilty. The book got a little disturbing by the author describing Henry and when Henry was talking to Ort’s dad while bathing him. It also was a little eerie because of the sound of Sam’s breathing tube in his throat. My favorite part of this book was when Henry tells about his past because it really pulls a lot of facts together and made the book a lot clearer. Henry and his parents don’t really talk anymore so I think that’s a reason why he is the way he is. I also liked the part when Ort and his sister went to convenient store and bought a ice cold ginger beer. That made me really thirsty. I might like to read another Australian book to see if they are all like this one or even worse. This book probably made me a better reader because of its different style of writing. The African book I read wasn’t that much different from English books. I would rate this book a 2 out of 5 on all the books I read. I would recommend this book to people who like fictional realism and short stories, because it’s not that long of a book at 150 pages. This book brought you in right away with its different way of talking and the car crash but then got really dry throughout the rest of the book.